

**OPENING STATEMENT
THE HONORABLE RALPH HALL, TEXAS
RANKING MEMBER
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

June 27, 2007

Markup of:

- H.R. 906, *The Global Climate Change Research Data and Management Act of 2007*
- H.R. 1933, *the Department of Energy Carbon Capture and Storage Research, Development, and Demonstration Act of 2007*
- H.R. 2773, *the Biofuels Research and Development Enhancement Act*
- H.R. 2774, *the Solar Energy Research and Advancement Act of 2007*

Thank you Mr. Chairman. In the interest of time, I will keep my statement brief and say that I will be glad when this month is over. I understand that you and your fellow Chairmen have been working under pressure from the Speaker to report bills out of committee, but I fear that sometimes when things are rushed through, we don't get the best end-products we could have if we had more time to fully vet the language. While I think improvements in the bills before us today will occur through amendments to be offered, I think that they could be improved further, and I hope that we'll have other opportunities to do so as this bill moves to the Floor. It is also my hope and understanding that going forward, there will be more of an effort to have both sides working together as we craft legislation to come before the committee.

I think this would improve not only the quality of work we produce, but also the bipartisan way in which they are handled.

With that said, I support and believe it is important to our country's energy future to keep all options on table, and we strive to do that with the 3 energy bills before us. One of our greatest challenges as a nation is energy self-sufficiency. We need to break our dependence on foreign sources of energy from countries who we don't trust and who don't trust us. To do that, we need to be honest and practical about what needs to be done to get to that point. Solar and biofuels are an important source of domestic energy, but they are also limited in their scope. It is important that we continue to research and develop the resources we know exist domestically and currently provide reliable, affordable, and clean sources of energy. I look forward to working with this committee in the months ahead to address this reality so that Americans can enjoy more energy choices at a lower cost.